

Help us, ever-revealing God, to see with prophetic vision; to realize in our own day America's promise; and to bring to the rest of the world, respect for law, the sanctity of life, and the joy of freedom.

For You live in our midst now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PASCRELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PASCRELL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS WITH CHINA

(Mr. ARMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, the coming vote to expand our trade with China is a vote for the new economy. It is a vote that will clearly show whether the Members in this Congress are in favor of advancing America's high-tech economy or whether they want to flee from that future into the failed protectionist policies of the past.

Mr. Speaker, China is a key market for America's high-tech industry. It is now the second largest information technology market in Asia, second only to Japan.

It is an information technology market that is growing at 20 to 40 percent annually. Next year, China will be the third largest semiconductor market in the world, and by 2010 it will be the number two largest.

This is a boon for America and for the Chinese people. As information technology spreads in China, it will help the Chinese learn about their government and, more importantly, the world beyond. It will encourage democratic reform in China and help make China a more free and open society.

Mr. Speaker, our high-tech industry got everything it needed in the trade agreement with China. We must not throw that away.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to approve PNTR. A vote for permanent normal trade relations is a vote for the new economy.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in hopes that my colleagues will be moved by the stories that I tell and help bring our children home. Since February 16, I have been coming down to the floor and talking about American children who have been abducted to foreign countries, asking my colleagues, the media, and the American people to focus their attention on these kids, and the message is starting to get out.

Mr. Speaker, just this Sunday, The Washington Post ran a two-page article on Joseph Cooke and his two children, Danny and Michelle. I spoke about Joseph and his children on April 5, and this article details their tragic story of abduction to Germany.

Mr. Speaker, there are 10,000 American children out there whose stories are similar, 10,000 American children and their parents who experience the same kind of pain and devastation every day of their separation. These daily 1-minutes, events and the resolution I introduced along with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) are just the tip of the iceberg. This Congress must take action to solve this problem and help reunite parents with their children.

Mr. Speaker, we must bring our children home.

AMERICA'S NATIONAL SECURITY

(Mr. GARY MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because of my deep concern for America's national security. A recent Associated Press which ran on May 5 reported that the U.S. Air Force readiness to fight is now at a 15-year low, representing a 28 percent decline since the Cold War. Roughly 115 of its 329 combat units were not fully capable of performing their mission.

In the article, a senior military official blamed the budgets that did not allow enough for spare parts and did not offer service members salaries competitive in today's booming economy.

That is why I find it ironic that I also came across an article in the May issue of National Defense magazine which quoted Vice President AL GORE as saying the Pentagon's budget is currently in the "right zone" to meet today's national security needs.

Mr. Speaker, current White House advisers, as well as the Vice President, have publicly stated while ample financial resources to increase defense are available, they are not needed. It is this lackadaisical attitude that has contributed to the monumental problems that we now face.

As a Member of Congress, I am becoming more and more concerned about our national leaders' attitude and how they impact our ability to, as our Constitution states, "provide for the common defense" of this country.

This trend must be reversed. We must have strong leadership and redefine our national security policy. Resources must be provided to replace our aging ships, helicopters, tanks, artillery and other equipment.

Most importantly, we must begin to treat our servicemen and women and their families with the respect they deserve.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, this is National Hospital Week, when communities all across America honor the individuals that make hospitals the foundations of our community.

This year's theme sums it up very nicely: "Touching the Future With Care." It recognizes the health care workers, volunteers, and other health professionals who are there 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, curing and caring.

An example of this dedication is the Caritas Connection at St. Mary's Hospital in Passaic, New Jersey. The program won the American Hospital Association's prestigious NOVA Award, which recognizes hospitals' innovative and collaborative efforts to improve the health of their communities.

The Caritas Connection is a collaborative project created by St. Mary's Hospital and the Sisters of Charity to focus on the needs of a large urban immigrant population. The majority of the resident workers are in factories with low pay, long hours, and no benefits of job security.

It is this type of partnership that lifts us, and I felt it fitting during National Hospital Week to bring this success to the attention of my colleagues.

CONGRATULATIONS TO STUDENTS FROM HEMPFIELD HIGH SCHOOL ON PARTICIPATION IN "WE THE PEOPLE" COMPETITION

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the students of Hempfield High School, who are here in Washington again this year. They are representing Pennsylvania in the national "We the People" competition. Elaine Savukas' AP government class is competing with other schools showing their knowledge about the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. There are more than 1,200 students here from all over America.

The format is a simulated congressional hearing before a panel of scholars, lawyers, journalists, and government leaders. I have met with these bright young Pennsylvanians and was impressed with their knowledge and interest in our unique form of government.